

Holy Thursday

April 2, 2026



*Cover artwork drawn by Emmie Galgan,
member and 8th grade student at
St. John's Lutheran Church and School*

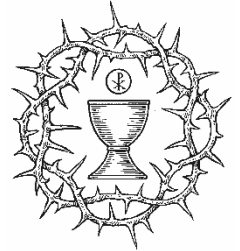
A Glimpse of the Heavenly Feast

Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Paschal Triduum

After six weeks of Lent, the Christian Year now reaches its climax. The Paschal Triduum celebrates the celebration of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word *Paschal* comes from the Hebrew word for Passover, and *Triduum* is Latin for three days. The three days of the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday) form one unit – three parts of one continuous worship experience. The Paschal Triduum recounts the dramatic happenings of our Savior’s suffering, death, and resurrection for the salvation of the world. No more important events have ever taken place.



Today’s Focus for Worship – A Glimpse of the Heavenly Feast

We need to be washed clean in the blood of Jesus. Our own need can distract and overwhelm us with the details of our sin and our guilt. Blood always gets our attention, but it can make us feel queasy and uneasy. Jesus wants to lift our eyes above all that to his marvelous promise of forgiveness. Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. The Lord’s Supper gives us a glimpse of the heavenly feast where we will eat of the eternal manna and drink from the river of God’s delights forever.



Serving at Worship

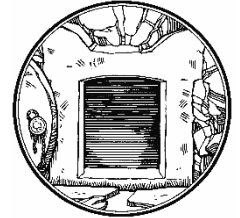
Presiding Minister: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Preacher: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Accompanist: Stephen Radsek

Soloist: David Moyer

Singing Ensemble: Sophie Kraft, Samuel Lahmann, Ella Malliet

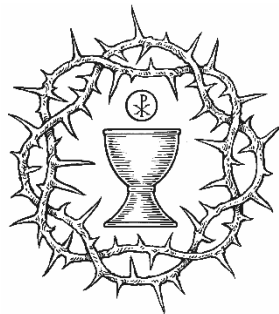


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Holy Thursday

Compline



The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et



night and peace at the last.



A - men.



It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



to sing praise to your name, O Most High,



to her - ald your love in the morn - ing,



your truth at the close of day.



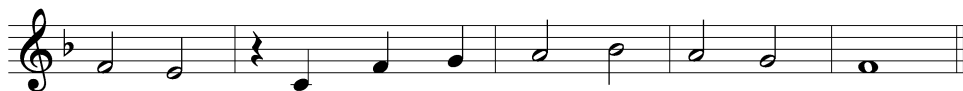
1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, see, world, your
3 I caused your grief and sigh - ing by e - vils



Lord sus - pend - ed; your Sav - ior yields his breath.
mul - ti - ply - ing as count - less as the sands.



The Prince of life from heav - en him - self has free - ly
I caused the woes un - num - bered with which your soul is



giv - en to shame and blows and bit - ter death.
cum - bered, your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517. Text and tune: Public domain.

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9

With humble and penitent hearts, this evening we begin our celebration of the Paschal Triduum, the three holy days of Jesus' Passion. During these days our Lord Jesus paid for our sins and accomplished our salvation. Tonight on this Holy Thursday, we hear him say, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His love for us is evident in his death and resurrection. But our love for him and for others is often cold or lacking. Let us confess our sinful lovelessness to our loving heavenly Father and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

We have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun when we shall serve him in newness of life.

Amen.

All sing:

Your soul in griefs unbounded,
your head with thorns surrounded,
you died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
the crown for me securing,
you healed my wounds and set me free.

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples a lesson in humility by washing their feet. Fill us with your great love that we see our true value and greatness in your love and sacrifice for us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

All sing:

Your cross I place before me,
its saving pow'r restore me,
sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
be guiding and attending
my way to your eternal rest.

First Reading

Exodus 24:1-11

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ²but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

³When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." ⁴Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

⁸Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

I Will Walk in the Presence of the LORD | 116-B

Refrain

I will walk in the pres - ence of the LORD,
in the land of the liv - ing.

Tone

I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;
he heard my cry for / mercy.
Because he turned his / ear to me,
I will call on him as long / as I live.

The LORD is gracious and / righteous;
when I was brought low, he / saved me. *Refrain*

What shall I return / to the LORD
for all his good- / ness to me?
I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation
and call on the name / of the LORD.

Precious in the sight / of the LORD
is the death of his faithful / servants.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: Richard T. Proulx

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Stand

Gospel

John 13:1-15, 34-35

¹It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior | 659:1-6

Sermon Text

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

²⁸Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

Sermon

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

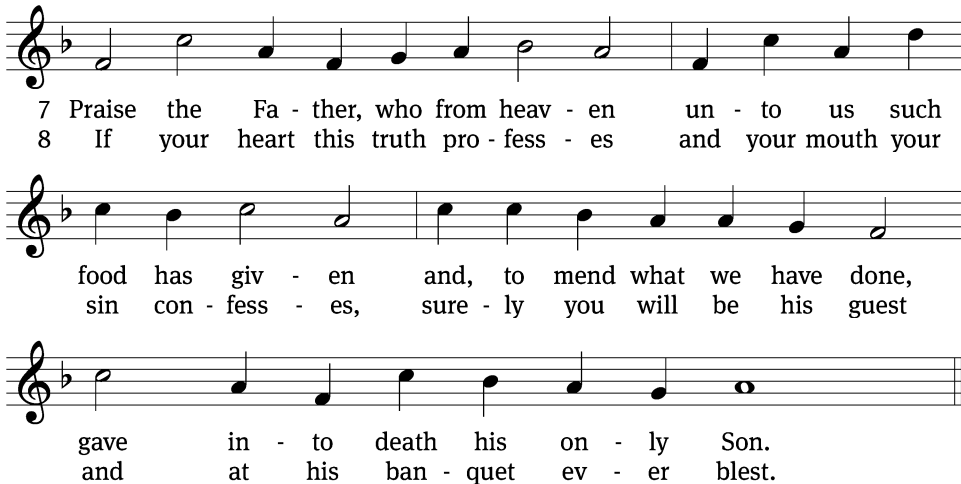
Powerful Gift

1. Powerful Reality
2. Powerful Warning
3. Powerful Proclamation

Stand

Hymn Response

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior | 659:7-8



7 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en un - to us such
8 If your heart this truth pro - fess - es and your mouth your
food has giv - en and, to mend what we have done,
sin con - fess - es, sure - ly you will be his guest
gave in - to death his on - ly Son.
and at his ban - quet ev - er blest.

Be seated

The Small Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

p. 293

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 116:13

Dearest Jesus, you are the true Passover Lamb who was slain for us. Your body was offered for us. Your blood spares us from death.

We will lift up the cup of salvation. We will call on the name of the Lord.

As Israel celebrated their freedom in the Passover, we celebrate our freedom in you. Your body and blood were given and poured out for us for the forgiveness of sins.

We will lift up the cup of salvation. We will call on the name of the Lord.

As we partake of your body and blood, draw us together as one body in faith. Strengthen our faith in you. Increase our love for one another.

We will lift up the cup of salvation. We will call on the name of the Lord.

Lord Jesus, you displayed your love to your disciples by taking the role of a humble servant and washing their feet. Cleanse us also from sin, and give us your humble spirit, that we also may follow you in love and service.

We will lift up the cup of salvation. We will call on the name of the Lord.

Let this Holy Supper bring your healing and rest to those who are weary and burdened by sin, guilt and the troubles of this world. Cheer us with your real presence. Pardon us with your declaration of forgiveness. Unite us to yourself and to one another.

We will lift up the cup of salvation. We will call on the name of the Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise and thank you for your grace, that you established this supper in which we eat your body and drink your blood. By your Holy Spirit, help us to use this gift worthily, to confess and forsake our sins, to confidently believe that we are forgiven in you, and to grow in faith and love day by day until we come at last to the joy of eternal salvation; you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Sung by the soloist

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

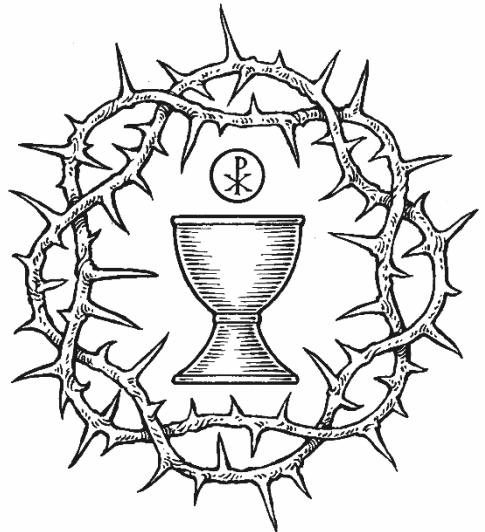
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who, knowing that his hour had come, in his great love gave this Holy Supper to his disciples to be a memorial of his Passion, that we might proclaim his death until he comes again. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Holy, Holy, Holy | 944

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, 1937–2010

Text: Public domain

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Matthew 26:26

Blessed are you, O Lord, because you have brought us from death to life. With humble and repentant hearts, we praise and thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ:

Who became our substitute under your holy law;
Who destroyed the works of the devil by his perfect obedience to your will;
Who willingly carried a cross to pay the debt of the world's sin;
Who lives and reigns to give us life.

Through his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, forgive our sins and strengthen us for our journey heavenward. Unite us to our crucified and risen Lord, that we may believe in him, confess him, call on his name, and finally be delivered from this world to the feast of the Lamb, whose kingdom has no end.

Amen.

Words of Institution *Verba*

Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy | 947:1,3



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,



ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
 ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
 All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 your peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546. Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546. Text and tune: Public domain.

Be seated

Holy Communion Distribution

St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.

Distribution Hymns

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord | 677
 It Was a Dark and Dismal Night | 417:1-4

Stand

Hymn Response

It Was a Dark and Dismal Night | 417:5

All sing:

Jesus, your feast we celebrate;
 we show your death; we sing your name
 till you return and we shall eat
 the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Closing Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, on the night before you suffered, you showed your disciples the extent of your love, you gave them this sacrament of forgiveness and remembrance, and you promised them that you would drink it again with them in your Father's kingdom. As we have partaken of this sacrament, show us your love in your words of invitation, restore our joy in the forgiveness you have won by your death and resurrection, and give us hope in the promise you have given of a feast to come. In this sacrament, live and rule in us, even as you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reading

Luke 22:39-53

³⁹Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

⁴⁷While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

⁴⁹When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

Be seated

Stripping of the Altar

The altar is solemnly stripped of its appointments, symbolizing the Lord's abandonment in Gethsemane. The focus of our worship shifts now from the celebration of the Lord's Supper to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, the Lord Jesus, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors, and the events of Good Friday are near.

Psalm 22 and Psalm 88

As the ministers strip the altar, the congregation chants verses from Psalm 22 and Psalm 88.

Refrain

Be - hold, the Lamb of God,
who takes a - way the sin of the world!

Psalm tone

*
G A B C B A G

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? | Why are you so far from saving me?
I am a worm and not a man, | scorned by men and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me; | they hurl insults, shaking their heads:
“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. | Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Refrain

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; | you lay me in the dust
of death.

A band of evil men has encircled me, | they have pierced my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them | and cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off; | O my strength, come quickly to help me.

Refrain

